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Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

Alisa A. Harbin  
Reg. No. 33,895

CHIRON CORPORATION  
Intellectual Property - R440  
P.O. Box 8097  
Emeryville, CA 94608  
(510) 923-3179  
(510) 655-3542 (Fax)

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES****In the claims:**

Claims 115-117, 120-122, 126-128, 133-135, 139-141, 145-147, 151, 153, 159, 162-163, 165-166, 168, 172-174, 178-180 and 220-282 have been canceled.

Claims 118, 119, 132, 138 and 144 have been amended as follows:

118. (Twice Amended) A method of selecting biological samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples that comprise either (i) ~~a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide that comprises a contiguous sequence of at least 15 nucleotides from the genome of a hepatitis C virus genome or the complement thereof,~~ or (ii) antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an amino acid sequence of at least 10 contiguous amino acids encoded by a hepatitis C virus genome.

119. (Twice Amended) A method of selecting biological samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples that comprise either (i) ~~a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a contiguous sequence of at least 15 nucleotides from either strand of at least one of the HCV cDNA inserts in a lambda gt 11 cDNA library deposited as ATCC No. 40394~~ or (ii) antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an HCV polypeptide sequence of at least 10 contiguous amino acid encoded by an HCV cDNA insert in the lambda gt-11 library deposited as ATCC deposit No. 40394.

132. (Amended) A method according to any of claims ~~115~~ 118, 119 and 123-125, ~~162 or 163~~ wherein said biological samples are blood .

138. (Amended) A method according to any of ~~115~~ 118, 119 and 123-125, ~~162 or 163~~ wherein said biological samples are plasma.

144. (Amended) A method according to any of claims ~~115~~ 118, 119 and 123-125, ~~162 or 163~~ wherein said biological samples are sera.